(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The length of the MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia is 545 km and conversion to broad gauge was estimated to cost Rs. 327 crores as per 1986 Survey Report.

Auction of right to supply Porters at Madras Airport

793. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to supply porter manpower at Madras airport has been auctioned; and

(b) what is the total number of porters allowed to be pressed into service at National Terminal and Internal Terminal, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) IAAI provide free porterage service at international airports for the benefit of needy passengers such as aged, physically handicapped, unaccompanied ladies etc. Madras Airport, M/s. Ex-Servicemen Airlink Transport Service have been engaged to provide porters for this service.

(b) 6 porters each have been deployed at the Domestic and International Terminals at Madras Airport. There is also a provision of one leave reserve.

Maintenance of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Bhubaneswar Museum

794. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some rare palm leaf manuscripts are lying in a dilapidated condition at present in Bhubaneswar museum;

(b) whether the maintenance and preservation of those manuscripts are very necessary; and

(c) if so, what is the assistance so far extended by the Centre for the proper preservation, editing and publication of those manuscripts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) It is understood that Bhubaneswar museum has got a number of rare palm leaf manuscripts which need further preservation measures and phased publishing. There is no scheme under which assistance can be given by the Department of Culture to State owned museums. Therefore, it had been suggestd to the State Govt. to draw up a project for preservation, editing and publication of these manuscripts and put up for allocation of funds before the Planning Commission.

Construction of Hostel for Working Women at Jamshedpur

795. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had sanctioned about Rs. 5.5 lakh in November, 1986 towards construction of a hostel for working women by the 'Arjun Mahila Shilp Kendra, at Jamshedpur (Bihar) and had also advanced to it the first instalment of more than Rs. 1.4 lakh for the completion of the project;

(b) whether the project and the Mahila Kendra have been found to be a fraud; if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) what are the names of the guilty persons and action taken against each of them so far?